

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A portable radio terminal, comprising:  
2 a direction indicator key that outputs directional  
3 indication indicating one direction out of predetermined plural  
4 directions; and  
5 a controller that validates or invalidates the directional  
6 indication output by the direction indicator key.
- 1 2. The portable radio terminal according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising:  
3 an operator console that outputs the specification of a  
4 valid direction specifying whether the directional indication  
5 is validated based upon a direction indicated by the directional  
6 indication or not, wherein:  
7 the controller validates or invalidates the directional  
8 indication according to the specification of the valid direction  
9 output by the operator console.
- 1 3. The portable radio terminal according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising:  
3 a display that displays plural areas for displaying items  
4 showing the contents of operation and the contents of processing  
5 and displays the area corresponding to a currently selected item  
6 out of the plural areas as an active area based upon an instruction  
7 from the controller, wherein:  
8 the controller shifts the position of active display

9 currently displayed on the display to a direction indicated by  
10 the directional indication when the directional indication is  
11 validated.

1 4. The portable radio terminal according to claim 1, wherein:  
2 the predetermined plural directions are at least four  
3 directions.

1 5. The portable radio terminal according to claim 1, wherein:  
2 the direction indicator key indicates one direction out  
3 of eight longitudinal, lateral and diagonal directions; and  
4 the controller divides the eight directions into plural  
5 directional groups and validates or invalidates the directional  
6 indication collectively every directional group.

1 6. The portable radio terminal according to claim 5, wherein:  
2 the plural directional groups are two types of directional  
3 groups of four basic directions showing four longitudinal and  
4 lateral directions and four extended directions showing four  
5 diagonal directions.

1 7. The portable radio terminal according to claim 5, further  
2 comprising:

3 an operator console that outputs the specification of a  
4 valid direction specifying whether the directional indication  
5 is validated based upon a direction indicated by the directional  
6 indication collectively every directional group out of the plural

7 directional groups or not, wherein:

8 the controller validates or invalidates the directional  
9 indication according to the specification of the valid direction  
10 output by the operator console.

1 8. The portable radio terminal according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising:

3 a display that displays a figure of valid directions  
4 showing all directions in which the directional indication is  
5 valid.

1 9. The portable radio terminal according to claim 8, wherein:

2 the controller changes a part corresponding to a direction  
3 indicated by the directional indication in the figure of valid  
4 directions and instructs the display to display the changed  
5 figure when the directional indication is validated.

1 10. The portable radio terminal according to claim 8, wherein:

2 the controller changes the display color of a part  
3 corresponding to a direction indicated by the directional  
4 indication in the figure of valid directions and instructs the  
5 display to display the changed figure when the directional  
6 indication is validated.

1 11. The portable radio terminal according to claim 8, wherein:

2 the controller changes the display form of a part  
3 corresponding to a direction indicated by the directional

4 indication in the figure of valid directions and instructs the  
5 display to display the changed figure when the directional  
6 indication is validated.

1 12. The portable radio terminal according to claim 8, wherein:  
2 the display displays a screen that is provided with plural  
3 areas for displaying items showing the contents of operation  
4 and the contents of processing and the figure of valid directions;  
5 and  
6 the controller instructs the display to display the figure  
7 of valid directions showing all directions indicated by the  
8 directional indication and validated on the following switched  
9 screen when the screen displayed on the display is switched to  
10 another screen.

1 13. A method of setting an indicatable direction of a preset  
2 direction indicator key in a portable radio terminal, comprising:  
3 a first step for specifying a direction in which  
4 directional indication output by the direction indicator key  
5 is validated; and  
6 a second step for setting the valid direction specified  
7 in the first step.

1 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein:  
2 for the valid direction, there are two types of eight  
3 longitudinal, lateral and diagonal directions and four  
4 longitudinal and lateral directions.

1 15. The method according to claim 13, further comprising:  
2 a step for displaying a figure designating all directions  
3 included in the currently set valid directions.

1 16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:  
2 a step for changing a part corresponding to a direction  
3 indicated by the direction indicator key in the figure  
4 designating directions and displaying the changed figure.

1 17. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:  
2 a step for changing the display color of a part  
3 corresponding to a direction indicated by the direction indicator  
4 key in the figure designating directions and displaying the  
5 changed figure.

1 18. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:  
2 a step for changing the display form of a part corresponding  
3 to a direction indicated by the direction indicator key in the  
4 figure designating directions and displaying the changed figure.

5 19. A method of setting an indicatable direction of a preset  
6 direction indicator key in a portable radio terminal, wherein:  
7 a valid direction showing a direction in which directional  
8 indication according to the following switched screen output  
9 by the direction indicator key is judged valid when the currently  
10 displayed screen is switched to another screen is set.